

Dedicated to the Memory of  Commissioner Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Jr.

PLAY

Summer
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Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

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Putting It All Together



Catching fish takes a lot of skill and even more patience. You need to know where to find fish. In this issue, you'll learn about some baits and lures and how to use them. We will also discuss where fish hang out. In short, you'll learn everything you need to know to start on the path of becoming a great angler.



Where are the Fish?

To find fish, you will need to learn how to be a fish detective.



Here are some clues to help you out.



Clue #1: Food

This one is simple—fish need food to survive. Your catch will be found where food is available. Crayfish, small minnows and aquatic insects are important members of aquatic food chains. Find the food, and you will find bigger fish.



Clue #2: Shelter

Shelter provides a hiding spot and shade from the sun for fish. Underwater logs, stumps, rocks, weeds, brush piles and boat docks provide shelter, shade and protection for fish.



Clue #3: Habitat

All fish need food and shelter, but many fish tend to hang out in certain areas of the water. For example, some fish may like rocky areas while others like vegetation. Some fish can be found in shallow waters while others hang out in deep waters.



Fish Finder

Identify the fish based on the descriptions below.

Refer to the pond diagram to learn where these fish hang out.

Write the answer on the blank.

Answers are found on page 7 of this *PLAY* issue.

1. Look for this fish in areas with weeds, lily pads, stumps or downed logs.



4. Docks often provide great shelter for this and other panfish.



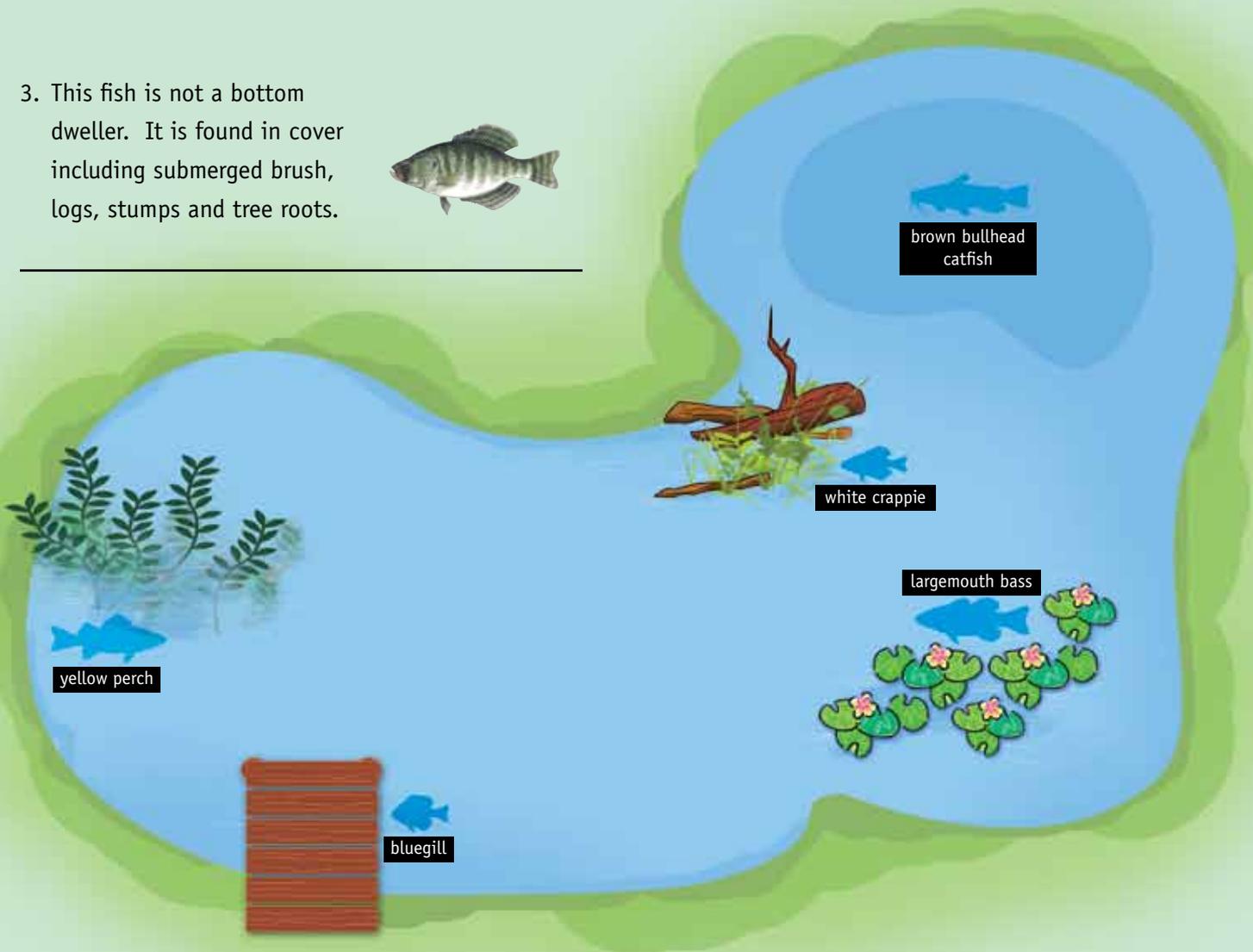
2. This fish is a bottom-dweller. It can be found in deep waters of ponds and lakes.



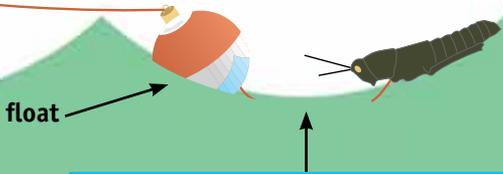
5. Look for this fish around the edges of underwater plants growing along the shore.



3. This fish is not a bottom dweller. It is found in cover including submerged brush, logs, stumps and tree roots.

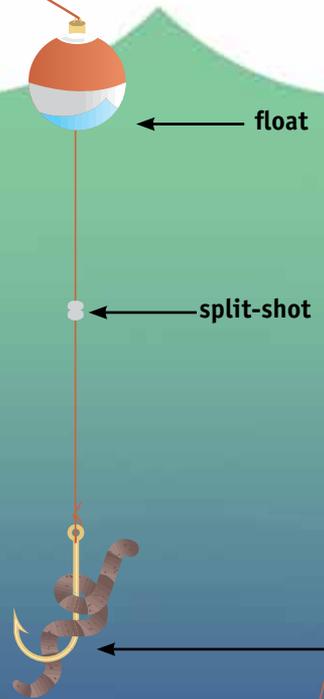


FISHING FROM



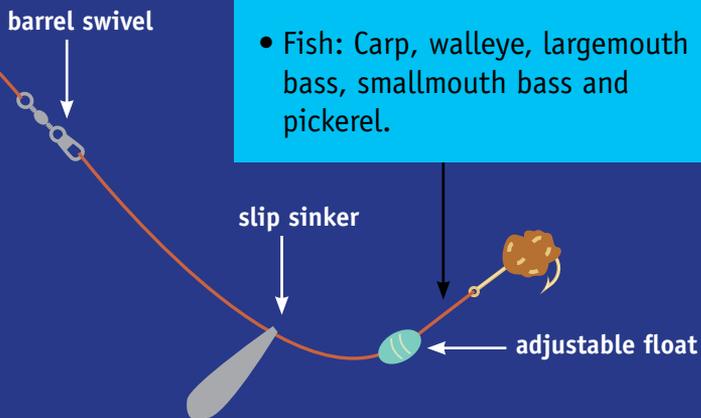
Top-water bait rig

- Tackle: A bobber and hook.
- Bait: Grasshoppers, caterpillars, crickets or frogs.
- Fish: Panfish, trout, largemouth bass and pickerel.



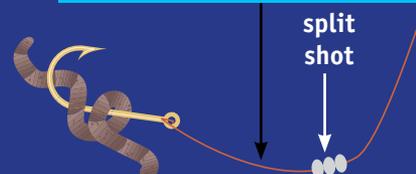
Just off the bottom rig

- Tackle: A barrel swivel, slip sinker, adjustable float and hook.
- Bait: Cereal balls, dough balls, minnows or leeches.
- Fish: Carp, walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and pickerel.

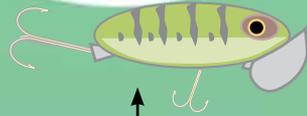


Bottom rig

- Tackle: Some split-shot and a hook.
- Bait: Pieces of hot dog, night crawlers, chicken liver, cheese balls or crayfish.
- Fish: Catfish and smallmouth bass.



TOP TO BOTTOM



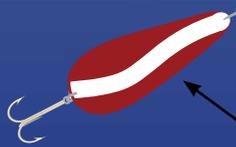
Top-water

- Lures: Poppers, prop baits or twitch baits.
- Fish: Largemouth bass, muskellunge, northern pike and pickerel.

Mid-water bait rig

- Tackle: A bobber, some split-shot and a hook.
- Bait: Minnows, earthworms, nightcrawlers, leeches, meal worms, wax worms or maggots.
- Fish: Panfish, trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and pickerel.

barrel swivel



Spoons and spinners

- Lures: Spoons and Spinners
- Fish: Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, trout, walleye, northern pike, muskellunge and pickerel.

Jigs

- Lures: Marabou, split-tail grub, sassy shad or curly-tailed twister jigs.
- Fish: Panfish, trout, smallmouth bass and walleye.



G R E A T



Oh boy, oh boy! There goes your bobber. It's disappeared under the water. That means you've got a bite. Now what do you do?



Hooking the Fish

First, set the hook by jerking your rod up and back quickly. If using a circle hook, skip the jerk and just reel.



Fighting the Fish

After the fish is hooked, keep your rod tip high and your line tight. Bring the fish in as quickly as possible.



Catch & Release

Handle your catch with care if you plan on releasing it.

Keep it Wet

- Remember that fish cannot breathe out of the water. If possible, keep the fish in the water while removing the hook.

Handle with Care

- Don't touch the fish's gills or place your fingers in the gill slits. This is where the fish takes in oxygen from the water. Gills are extremely sensitive to injury.



fish gills

- Remove the hook carefully and quickly. If the fish swallows the hook deeply, cut the line.

Back to the Water

- Once you remove the hook, gently return the fish to the water. If the fish does not swim away, gently move it back and forth in the water. The water passing through the fish's gills will provide much needed oxygen to help revive it.

C A T C H



Keeping your Catch?

Check the seasons, sizes and creel limits regulations. Your fish may be too small to keep or it may be out of season. See the current *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary* for more information.

PLAY

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